



ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Commission Meeting
Tuesday, September 18, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Victory Place III
850 W. Jones Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, Department of Economic Security (DES); Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Charles Ryan, Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Karen Hellman (Alternate), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Mary Murphy (Alternate), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF); Melissa Thomas (Alternate), Arizona Department of Health Services; Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Sean Price (Alternate), Arizona Department of Veteran Services (ADVS); Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC); Terri Leveton, Halo of Hope Foundation; and Victor Hudenko, Catholic Charities Community Services, Inc.

Commissioners Absent:

Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS); Colonel Joey Strickland, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (ADVS); Frank Migali, Arizona Department of Education (ADE).

Staff Present:

Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Travis Shulte, Arizona Department of Veteran Services (AZDVS); Lynn Larson, Judith Fritsch, Donna Bleyle, Margaret Kilman and Priscilla Cruz, Department of Economic Security (DES).

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He issued a special welcome to our guest speakers Barbara Poppe and Matthew Doherty from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and Tim Cantwell of Cantwell-Anderson.

Approval of the Minutes

Co-Chair Clarence H. Carter called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, May 15, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was approved and passed by Commissioners in attendance.

Arizona Plan to End Homelessness / Status Overview

Donna Bleyle requested that the commission members quickly introduce themselves to the guest speakers. Donna then gave a brief status overview presentation to update our guests and commissioners on where we are in Arizona's goal to end homelessness. The presentation was concluded by Donna stating that our efforts to end homelessness are a work in progress, but, we are currently ahead of schedule.

Committee Reports

Housing Committee: Commissioner Traylor reported on this committee stating that our ultimate goal is to put homeless shelters out of business, but while this is our goal it is doubly difficult to accomplish due to a major lack of readily available rental properties. The state is focusing on working with low cost and foreclosed property managers in order to obtain more affordable housing. Commissioner Traylor also noted that Van Gottel from SocialServe.com has been doing a great job with providing internet information on these low cost rental properties. Van Gottel then gave a brief overview of the SocialServe.com pre-screening questionnaire and services.

Studies and Survey Committee: Commissioner Spicker reported on this committee stating that we have just recently completed our first round of surveys of individuals in shelters and on the streets. Our goal was to reach 2,030 individuals with a thirty question survey, the survey occurred between July through the end of August. We were actually able to reach 1750 individuals with the surveys and the data is now being entered and processed. The ultimate goal is to move this data into a usable format so that this information can be utilized by this commission.

Homeless Services Committee: Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating that they are currently working on developing an assessment tool which will work well in the valley area, currently they are utilizing an assessment tool out of Texas which they are trying to modify for the valley area and Commissioner Newsom will be looking for an assistant or graduate student to help with the modifications of the assessment tool. Commissioner Newsom also stated that as of August 1st there are currently ten agencies; transitional and emergency programs; in the valley area, that are using this homeless assessment tool and while it's not optimum at the moment it's all we have for right now. She also stated that within the next three to four months we should have a lot more data to share with the group. Commissioner Newsom also informed the committee that the numbers for homeless families and single women has increased alarmingly over the last couple of months and we need to have 'interventions' in place sooner rather than later in order to assist these individuals in obtaining housing.

Data Management Committee: Commissioner Williams reported on this committee stating they are continuing to collect data from various sources but he has come across some 'barriers' when trying to collect accurate data, citing his concern that the HMIS system has some limitations since the Veterans Administration's information is not entered directly into the HMIS system which makes data hard to tally. Therefore we need to find other ways to record data other than the HMIS system. It was also stated by Commissioner Williams that we have a need to create a centralized database which will contain this various collected data. This centralized database will then be able to give us a better ongoing feel of what's actually transpiring with the homeless population. He also stated that all continuums with whom we are in contact with are willing to work together to supply us with data.

Opening Doors / Status Overview

Guest speaker, Barbara Poppe, Executive Director United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), issued her appreciation for being given the opportunity to speak with the commission. She then gave a status overview on Opening Doors, the Federal Plan to End Homelessness.

Discussion with Commissioners and Barbara Poppe

Ms. Poppe also gave a presentation which focused on the 2012 homelessness numbers and the effect of chronic homelessness on those numbers. She stated that we are a long way from being able to achieve our goal to end chronic homelessness by 2015 and all homelessness by 2020 due to an increase in chronic homelessness. She shared research that has been done projecting the current goals out to their completion dates and pointed out that the decline is not steep enough to reach the goal. Ms. Poppe then discussed how Arizona's numbers stack up to the rest of the States. Matthew Doherty then spoke about looking at new ways to leverage and target HUD resources and data. He is looking for more strategic ways to utilize resources and implement more of the best practices available in communities. In closing stating that Federal resources need to be better aligned with State resources.

Announcements

Sean Price (AZDVS) announced the next coalition on homelessness conference is scheduled for October 16 – 17, 2012 and that there will be a Veteran Summit again during the conference.

Darlene Newsome announced she received a special grant from the Helen foundation to help with housing.

Future Agenda Items

At our next commission meeting we will have Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild join us.

Call to the Public

Co-Chair Traylor issued a call to the public and none were issued forth.

Next Meeting

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Traylor called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved and passed by the commissioners in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.